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"Javel water." Originally it meant the liquor prepared by action of chlorine on dilute potash solution. In so far as its bleaching effect is concerned such a liquor is essentially a solution of potassium hypochlorite. It was inevitable, however, that when, through the cheapening of sodium compounds, potassium hypochlorite was superseded by the sodium salt, the name popularly applied to the bleaching liquor should undergo a change in signification. The fact that sodium hypochlorite solution was already employed in pharmacy under the name of *Labarraque's liquor* could not affect this change. Pharmaceutical language is too esoteric and popular habit too persistent to render it possible for the pharmaceutical term to supplant the established usage of the textile trade. I take it, then, that we must expect the sodium hypochlorite-chloride mixture to continue to be known as "Javel water." Such confused statements, however, as the following—let us hope a slip of the pen—are not to be excused even in a writer whose subject is one relating to textile chemistry. It occurs at p. 234 of Pellew's "Dyes and Dyeing," an excellent popularizing exposition of the triumphs of synthetic chemistry in this fascinating field:

The potash and soda compounds, known respectively as Labarraque's solution and Javelle water, are less active and powerful than bleaching powder, but have the same general properties.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Pellew's readers will not be misled by either his definitions or his spelling.

J. F. SNELL

MACDONALD COLLEGE,  
QUEBEC, CANADA,  
February 27, 1914

#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Manual of Petrographic Methods.* By ALBERT JOHANNSEN, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Petrology, the University of Chicago. New York, McGraw-Hill Book Co. 677 pages, 770 figures in text and as whole page plates. \$6.00 net.

The methods of microscopic petrography, like other laboratory methods, have advanced

steadily in number and in complication during the fifty years of their practise, keeping pace with the increasing number of workers, the aim at greater accuracy and the developments of the petrographic microscope and its accessories. The author states in the preface that "the desire of an increasing number of students for more complete information in regard to modern petrographic-microscopic methods than is to be found in any English work on the subject" has led to the preparation of this book, but the reviewer knows no more complete and up-to-date treatment of this special subject in *any* language, for in most cases such works combine the general and theoretical part with a description of the individual minerals, while in this work only the methods are dealt with, but with a thoroughness, especially regarding the applications of optical mineralogy, which is of great value to the advanced student and investigator. Beginning with a short introductory chapter on crystallography and a thorough treatment of stereographic projection (so necessary for some of the more recent microscopic methods), chapters follow on the transmission of light through crystals, with a very complete and practical treatment of such topics as lenses, the petrographic microscope and the innumerable accessories which are now available, while the following chapters, comprising 300 pages, or nearly half the book, give a very complete account of the practical methods of application of the principles and instruments previously described. A somewhat briefer but sufficient account of the determination of specific gravity, mechanical separation of rock minerals, microchemical reactions, preparation of thin sections, etc., fills the remaining pages. The book is clearly printed and compact, notwithstanding the extended text and many figures; it represents a vast amount of careful, discriminating and constructive work on the author's part, as, for instance, is shown by the bibliography at the end of each chapter, and should be invaluable in its special field.

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